Vancouver metro

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# Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017 | High 5°C/Low 3°C Cloudy


## OSCARS NOT-SO-WHITE

metroLIFE

# LEGAL KRYPTONITE

**DC Comics threatens to sue Vancouver Realtor and self-anointed superhero**

metroNEWS

Realtor Ian Brett, who also markets himself as "Captain Vancouver," received a stern warning from DC Comics' lawyers after he tried to register the name "Real Estate Superhero."

WANYEE LI/METRO

## 'We can't emergency respond our way out of this'

Council fights opioid crisis

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## BC Hydro CEO defends idea of substations under parks and schools

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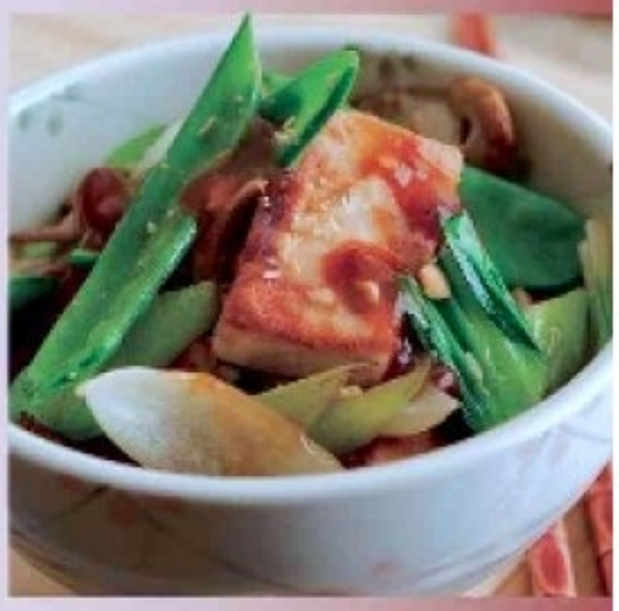

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# Prevention, not response

OPIOID CRISIS

## City urged to redirect money to add in more safe spaces

**Jen St. Denis**
Metro | Vancouver

The majority of people who have died of overdoses have been using drugs alone inside their home. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

"We can't emergency respond our way out of this," provincial health officials warned Vancouver's city council on Jan. 24 — as council considered spending $1.9 million for an additional medic crew for Fire Hall No. 2 and $200,000 to create a new community policing centre in Strathcona.

The initiatives would make up the first round of a possible $3.5 million earmarked to fight a deadly opioid overdose crisis that killed 215 Vancouver residents in 2016. Vancouver had both the highest number and rate of drug deaths in the province.

Deputy city manager Paul Mochrie said city staff are also working on several other initiatives that will come before council in the future, including support for overdose-prevention sites located in single-room occupancy hotels, public education campaigns and programs targeted to Indigenous drug users.

In December, the city added an extra 0.5 per cent property tax increase in order to raise the $3.5 million. VANDU, a drug user advocacy group, has been critical of using a substantial portion of those funds to create the new community policing centre, describing it as a "NIMBY" reaction to homelessness and drug use. VANDU would like to see that money spent instead on creating more overdose prevention sites.

Overdose deaths spiked in November and December of 2016, and early indications are that the number of fatalities will be the same or higher in January, said Dr. Reka Gustafson, medical health officer for Vancouver Coastal Health.

> **Addiction is not a choice.**
> Dr. Reka Gustafson

She emphasized that the only way to get the number of fatalities down is to decriminalize illicit drugs and offer a range of treatments, including prescription heroin and other injectable substitutions like hydromorphone.

"Addiction is not a choice," Gustafson said.

Gustafson stressed that municipal leaders need to advocate to the federal and provincial governments for change. But more immediately, the city can support the creation of safe spaces to use drugs in single-room occupancy hotels and help train staff there to respond to overdoses, she said.

The majority of people who have died of overdoses have been using drugs alone inside their home. No fatalities have occurred at several overdose prevention sites that have been operating since December.

Council will hear from speakers on the issue on Jan. 25 starting at 9:30 a.m.

## B.C. will not wait for law changes

British Columbia's health minister says the province's overdose prevention sites and at least one "sharing room" where people use drugs may not be legal under federal laws but they're intended to save lives.

Terry Lake said an unprecedented opioid epidemic forced the province last month to open the first locations in Vancouver where people could inject illicit drugs while monitored by trained staff.

Since then, a total of 18 overdose-prevention sites have opened around the province, from the Fraser Valley to the Interior and Prince George at existing locations where people receive addiction supports. Two more sites are pending on Vancouver Island.

"Are we skirting federal law? You could make that argument, I guess, but we weren't prepared to wait for changes to save lives," Lake said Tuesday.

The federal government recently introduced legislation to make it easier for provinces to open supervised injection sites, but Lake said 914 overdose deaths in B.C. last year meant radical action had to be taken.

"You have to do what you need to do to keep people alive, and longer term, obviously, we're pushing the federal government to approve supervised consumption sites as quickly as possible."

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# Airbnb pays off homes faster

HOUSING

## Vacation suites recoup price 60% quicker than renting

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver homeowners can recoup the cost of their home 60 per cent faster by posting it on Airbnb than renting it out to tenants, according to a new report released Wednesday.

The study, by online real estate sales firm Nested, compared 75 cities around the world and found Vancouver landlords have to rent out their suites for roughly 28 years to recover their investment — but using the controversial short-term vacation rental service could shorten that period by more than a decade.

The research adds fuel to the fire of a bitter debate in Vancouver, where a severe rental shortage has brought the vacancy rate to near-zero and prices are skyrocketing for both renters and owners alike.

**Short-term rental regulations kick in this spring, but enforcement needed to offset 'financial incentives' turning rental units into vacation suites.** JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Critics have attributed the shortage partly to owners increasingly turning to vacation rentals to pay their mortgages, and City Council has passed new regulations which come into effect this spring.

"The rise of Airbnb is making it harder for renters to find properties as more landlords are preferring to rent to short term renters who pay a premium," explained Nested CEO Matt Robinson in a statement. "But this is a great opportunity for those who have managed to fight their way onto the property ladder to make the most out of their property."

> It just shows there is a significant financial incentives to Airbnb, so if we want to keep our housing to be used as housing, we require some government intervention.
> Karen Sawatsky

But compared to other cities, Vancouver does not stand out significantly, according to the report, ranked No. 68 below Toronto and Montreal on cities with the biggest gap between Airbnb and traditional rental revenues.

The findings came as no surprise to Karen Sawatsky, an urban planning researcher whose Master's thesis last year examined the impacts of thousands of Airbnb units on Vancouver's rental housing shortage.

"That's consistent with what I found," she said. "The average nightly rate for Airbnb seemed like it worked out to in the range of 10 per cent of what the monthly rent would be."

Airbnb supporters have argued that the service offers ordinary people a chance to be able to afford to stay in the cities they live and work in. Critics counter that many of the units offered are multiple listings and are simply helping turn housing into an investment commodity at a time rental stock is depleted.

Sawatsky, who sits on Vancouver's renter advisory committee, said she was heartened by the city's move to restrict Airbnb — requiring hosts to apply for a license, and only for their principal residence, not vacant investment properties.

While the rules are worthwhile, Sawatsky said they're only as good as their enforcement. "It also requires ongoing monitoring and enforcement, as well as just making the rules in the first place," she noted.

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**Realtor Ian Brett,** who also markets himself as 'Captain Vancouver,' received a stern warning from DC Comics' lawyers after he tried to register the name "Real Estate Superhero." WANYEE LI/METRO

# Realtor faces suit from DC Comics

TRADEMARKS

## Company may sue Ian Brett over likeness to Superman logo

**Wanyee Li**
Metro | Vancouver

A local real estate agent may be facing legal kryptonite after DC Comics threatened to sue him over his brand, "Real Estate Superhero."

Realtor Ian Brett, who also markets himself as "Captain Vancouver," after the city's namesake, British naval explorer Capt. George Vancouver, received a stern warning from DC Comics' lawyers on Jan. 9, 2017.

According to a letter published on Brett's website, DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero" and to stop using a red and yellow shield symbol, reminiscent of Superman's "S."

"While our client does not object to use of CAPTAIN VANCOUVER to promote your real estate business, use of SUPERMAN indicia and the SUPER HERO trademarks is not permissible," stated a letter from Bereskin & Parr, the Canadian intellectual property law firm representing DC Comics.

Brett's website depicts the Realtor in a blue 18th century British naval-officer outfit with a shirt underneath that features a six-point shield — but with a "Re" for Realtor in it instead of Superman's "S."

**Ian Brett** markets himself as a "Real Estate Superhero" and wears a shirt that features a shield, reminiscent of Superman's costume. CAPTAIN VANCOUVER/CONTRIBUTED

But Brett, who has worked as a full-time Realtor for four years, called DC Comics' request unfair, characterizing the fight as a David and Goliath situation.

"I don't think I should be a threat. When you see me, I don't look like Superman. I don't have muscles upon muscles. I've got glasses that I can't take off because I can't see," he said.

> **I don't think I should be a threat. When you see me, I don't look like Superman.**
> Ian Brett

He chose to call himself a "superhero" because he believes people want to see a change in how real estate is conducted.

"We decided, hey let's try to tackle this problem we have in Vancouver with shadow flipping and all this dishonesty you hear about in the news," he said.

"It has worked remarkably. I've had so much interest. I think people were looking for a change. That's when the superhero persona came on."

Brett told Metro he is open to negotiating with DC Comics, particularly on the shield reference. But in the meantime, he is taking a tongue-in-cheek approach to negotiating with them, writing back to Bereskin & Parr as if the firm was Superman.

He signed off on the letter with this line:

"Alas Superman, fear not, you will always be the 'Man of Steel' just as I will always be the 'Man of Sales.'"

Bereskin & Parr did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.

# 5-year police plan addresses fentanyl

STRATEGIC PLAN

## Mental health of officers, city residents to be made priority

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

The Vancouver Police Department released its five-year plan Tuesday, highlighting strategies that address the fentanyl crisis as well as the mental health of its officers and the city's residents.

The 2017-21 plan also includes regular policing priorities like reducing violent crime.

Police chief Adam Palmer emphasized the fentanyl crisis will continue unless both sides of the problem are addressed — the supply and demand for illicit drugs. While officers will continue to go after drug traffickers, substances like fentanyl will continue to kill unless people receive addiction treatment, he explained.

**Police Chief Adam Palmer** DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"You'll never win any type of 'war on drugs.' The supply will keep coming in," he said. "Not only do we have to work as police officers on the supply side of the equation, we also have to work on the demand side."

That's why the VPD is dedicated to raising awareness about treatment options for people addicted to drugs, he said.

The department is also partnering with St. Paul's Hospital with a new mental health hub, Palmer noted. Maintaining the mental wellness of its officers is also a priority for VPD, he said.

The VPD's 2016-21 Strategic Plan was informed by public consultation, including responses from 2900 people online, and internal reviews.


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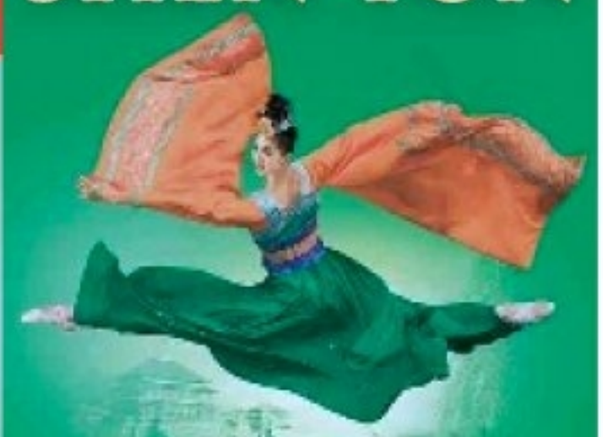

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# Proposed stations sparking concerns

BC HYDRO

## CEO defends substations under parks, school idea

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

**Jessica McDonald, CEO of BC Hydro, speaks to the Vancouver Board of Trade on Tuesday.** DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Parents need not worry about the safety of a proposal BC Hydro floated last week to build two new electrical substations underneath downtown Vancouver parks and near schools, the Crown corporation's CEO said Tuesday.

Speaking at a Greater Vancouver Board of Trade luncheon, Jessica McDonald sketched out further details of her agency's proposal, insisting it was just one "scenario of how this could work" — but that two new substations must be built in Yaletown and the West End regardless, she said, to meet an expected 75 per cent increase in electrical demand in the next 30 years.

"If we were to simply do nothing, we would start to see brownouts in the downtown Vancouver area within about 10 to 12 years," she said. "This of course is not our plan."

However, she emphasized it was still in very early stages and would go through a consultation process in the community — and that ultimately it is up to the parks and school boards to decide on, not BC Hydro.

"We have to finish discussing how would the park board and the school board and the city want to deal with mitigation of the impacts, and what their suggestions are," she said. "These are not our decisions … All we can do is put together a pretty compelling scenario and know that it's workable."

One of those attending McDonald's speech, former Vancouver School Board chair Patti Bacchus — who the province fired last October along with the other elected trustees, replacing them with an appointee — acknowledged the underground substation idea was "innovative and new."

But she countered that BC Hydro's timing of the idea was suspect at a time when there is no longer a democratically elected board to consider the public's interest and vet the idea.

"She tells us it's absolutely safe and fine," she said. "I'm not suggesting it's not safe, but if I was a parent, I'd want some independent research and expertise to tell me that — who isn't someone who's financially benefiting (from it).

Answering questions from the audience about electromagnetic field (EMF) safety concerns, McDonald said many people associate electrical infrastructure with danger, but that substations emit EMF levels below those considered unsafe by Health Canada.

"Intuitively, you look at a substation — particularly with all the security around it — and think it must be something you should stay away from," she said. "That's what we want people to think.

"The mental association is there must be EMF associated with this, but the levels are miniscule … The challenge for us is to ensure we can get that level of transparency and comfort to something that intuitively suggests the opposite."

In December 2015, an above-ground Richmond substation caught fire, leading to air quality warnings from authorities.

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# Overdose-response app wins praise

CROWDSOURCING

## Nurse inspires son's idea at hackathon

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

One of the winning ideas from last weekend's 48-hour health hackathon, hosted by Fraser Health, is an app that would crowdsource overdose reports in real time to connect people carrying naloxone with people who are overdosing.

An SFU computer science student and his team, The First Responders, came up with the life-saving idea. Data is Sean Bergunder's passion, he told Metro.

"I am more attracted to health-care data sets. That might be because my mom is actually a nurse."

That inspired him to create a program that would gather data relating to overdoses in one place to help professionals reach those in need. But that data was not available for privacy reasons.

That roadblock gave him the idea to crowdsource instead. The idea is simple: When an app user reports a nearby overdose,

The First Responders were among winners at this weekend's Health Hackathon.
.COURTESY FRASER HEALTH

a flag will appear on a map and nearby healthcare workers, or people carrying naloxone, will be notified.

"When someone presses the button to report an overdose, it would broadcast their location to other users of the app and we would log that information then we would have it available to us," he said.

It could shorten response times people face when overdosing, said Dr. Victoria Lee, Fraser Health's chief medical health officer.

But implementing the idea and creating a real-life product is a challenge. Bergunder and several other health hackathon teams are in the running for eight spots in a 20-week software incubator program, hosted by Innovation Boulevard. Fraser Health will choose the people for that program in the coming weeks, according to Lee.

POLITICAL DONATIONS

## Council looking at tighter conflict rules

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver's city councillors don't have to wait for the provincial government to act to get big money — or the perception of it — out of politics.

A volunteer committee struck to examine public confidence in Vancouver's municipal elections is suggesting councillors immediately adopt a code of conduct.

The code would require them to withdraw from any decision-making involving an organization that donated to their political campaign.

While the code would be non-binding, said Shoni Field, chair of the Independent Election Task Force, "failure to adhere would come at a political cost."

In April 2016, the provincial government refused to change the Local Election Campaign Financing Act to allow the City of Vancouver to set its own donation limits.

It's a power the city has long asked for, even as parties like Vision Vancouver and the Non-Partisan Association have raked in millions in donations.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have both recently become embroiled in outcry over pay-to-play fundraisers, where donors pay thousands of dollars for the privilege of face time with the leaders.

Vision Vancouver, the party that has held the balance of power in city hall since 2008, has also hosted such events.

Field emphasized that her committee didn't examine whether substantial donations made to Vancouver's municipal parties had actually influenced decisions.

But the public's assumption that donations could sway political decisions is creating a "perception" that deep-pocketed corporations, unions and wealthy individuals are getting a special focus from politicians that is denied to ordinary voters, Field said.

The task force also recommended that Vancouver consider allowing permanent residents to vote, and suggested the city strike a citizen's assembly to review and recommend a system of proportional representation — an alternative to the current first-past-the-post system. In the 2000s, B.C. had two referendums on proportional representation, neither of which passed.

Council voted to refer the task force's report to staff to review.

ECONOMY

## False Creek plans revealed

The public will get a peek Wednesday into the future of Vancouver's False Creek Flats — a 450-acre light industrial swath in the heart of the city.

The flats are located to the east of False Creek and are bounded by Main Street to the west, Clark Drive to the east, Prior Street to the north and Great Northern Way to the south.

The draft plan will be unveiled 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday at 231 Industrial Ave.

The plan aims to add 30,000 jobs over the next 30 years in creative and digital business, health care and life sciences. It will also develop new public places and infrastructure for workers, connect the area with the surrounding neighbourhoods and address seismic concerns and climate change.

False Creek Flats will also be home to the new St. Paul's Hospital and health campus, which will be built on an 18.4-acre site on Station Street.

JEFF HODSON/METRO

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|---|---|---|
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| 801 West 22nd Ave | 3250 Commercial Dr | 154 East 10th Ave |
| 1 to 5 pm | 4 to 8 pm | 4 to 8 pm |

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CITY OF VANCOUVER TRANSLINK

# Just can't kill Keystone

ENVIRONMENT

## Trump signs order reviving possibility of new pipeline

A zombie project that has spent years haunting Canada-U.S. relations in its never-born-yet-never-quite-dead state of perpetual limbo has just been given hope of life by new U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Keystone XL pipeline is alive — maybe.

Trump revived hopes for the dormant project Tuesday. He signed an executive order that could build the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline, the subject of a multi-year saga that cast a long shadow on bilateral relations.

He signed several executive orders related to infrastructure and construction, with the highest-profile one involving the pipeline that, if completed, would carry more than one-fifth of the oil Canada exports to the U.S.

The order invites pipeline-maker TransCanada Corp. to re-submit an application for a permit. It also encourages U.S. federal regulatory agencies to respond the opposite way the Obama administration did: favourably, and quickly, within 60 days.

"(It) directs agencies to approve it without delay," Trump spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday. "There's an energy revolution that's gonna happen in this country. In spite of the bureaucratic and political barriers that have happened in the past, we're ready to move forward."

The company issued a statement several hours later confirming it would re-apply: "We are currently preparing the application and intend to do so."

But it remains far from a done deal. There's ongoing uncertainty on multiple fronts — some are anticipated legal and political fights, and others are less-predictable wrinkles introduced Tuesday by the president himself.

The White House said its executive orders insist on two things: a better Keystone deal for U.S. taxpayers, and pipes made from U.S. steel, which could be problematic given that the parts for Keystone were already purchased, are now sitting in outdoor yards, and they include mostly foreign steel.

"We're going to renegotiate some of the terms," Trump said, as he signed the presidential order. "And if they'd like, we'll see if we can get that pipeline built."

The actual wording of those orders isn't actually that tough. It instructs the U.S. secretary of state to make a decision within 60 days, including on any new conditions that might serve the U.S. national interest.

As for the requirement to use U.S. steel, a separate presidential order sets a relatively low bar. It asks the commerce secretary to come up with a plan to use American material to the maximum extent possible, and to the maximum extent allowed by law. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Opponents of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines hold a rally as they protest U.S. President Donald Trump's executive orders advancing their construction, at Lafayette Park next to the White House on Tuesday.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Trudeau on political precipice

Justin Trudeau edged his way across a political tightrope Tuesday, doing his level best not to glance down at the perils below.

Shattered credibility on climate change and women's rights. Alienated voters in Alberta's hard-hit oilpatch. An agitated Donald Trump barring the door on cross-border trade.

Trudeau's Liberal high-wire act was on full display, whether it was as he cheered a pipeline project that's bound to aggravate environmentalists, or contemplated how best to avoid calling the U.S. president a misogynist.

First up, Trump's conditional approval of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which he said would bring badly needed jobs to the energy sector without blowing up Canada's commitments on greenhouse-gas emissions.

"We can continue to support good jobs, including in the fossil fuel industry, while we improve our emissions standards, while we innovate and develop renewable resources, while we manage the long-term transition that the planet needs to go through," Trudeau told a news conference.

Plus, he said, pipelines are a safer option than rail cars.

**People take part in a women's march in Sandy Cove, N.S., on Saturday.** GARY WILSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOVA SCOTIA

## Tiny women's march powerful for its size

When Gwen Wilson and Melissa Merritt decided at the last minute to organize their own women's march, they were prepared to be the only ones trudging down the sole road in their rural Nova Scotia village on a grey, drizzly Saturday.

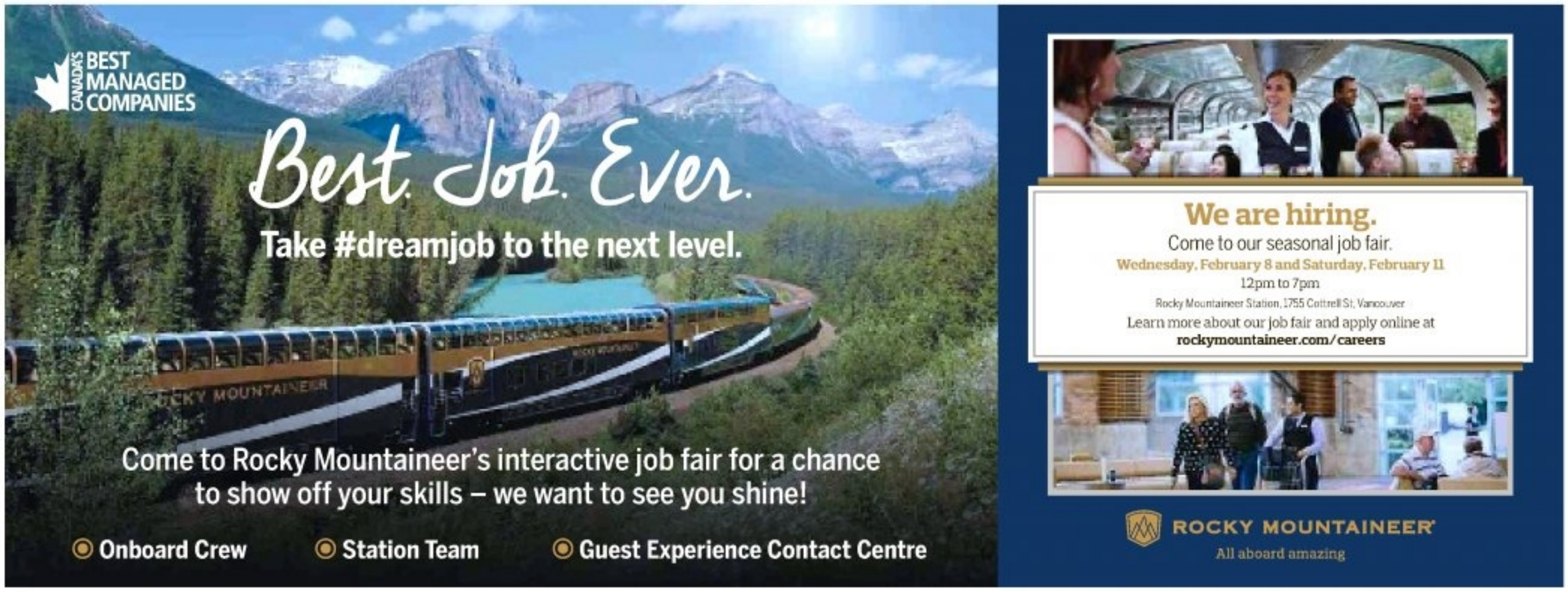
The two women who live on the Digby Neck peninsula both wanted to participate in one of the marches to support women's rights, but would have had to travel almost three hours to get to the closest one in Halifax.

So less than 24 hours before millions of people took to the streets around the world, they issued a call to the 65 year-round residents in Sandy Cove and others in villages that dot the peninsula to join them for their own march, expecting they might be alone in their activism.

When they assembled at the meeting spot — a school in Sandy Cove that has 22 students — they were stunned to see about a dozen other women, two men and a few children ready to go.

"We were ecstatic and were like, 'Oh my gosh, there's another truck coming in!'" Wilson exclaimed Tuesday. "It was just a wonderful, joyful feeling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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# Canada emerges as tax global haven

## It's called 'snow washing,' which means using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate.

Canada is quietly emerging as a popular tax haven for the global elite, who create shell companies with figurehead directors to evade or avoid taxes, a Toronto Star/CBC-Radio Canada investigation has found.

"Canada is a good place to create tax planning structures to minimize taxes like interest, dividends, capital gains, retirement income and rental income," reads a 2010 internal memo from Mossack Fonseca, the law firm behind the massive Panama Papers leak of 11.5 million documents detailing global tax avoidance and evasion.

It's called "snow washing" — using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate. A sprawling international tax avoidance industry is increasingly touting Canada as a jurisdiction for hiding wealth.

And the Canadian government has made it easier than ever for criminals and tax cheats to move money in and out by signing tax agreements with 115 countries — the greatest number in the world.

Another key reason is that Canada's corporate registration systems are shrouded in the same kind of secrecy that exists in tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands, Panama and the Bahamas. Company owners who don't wish to be identified in Canadian corporate registries can pay a lawyer or a stand-in to appear on all public filings.

Mossack Fonseca actively marketed Canada as a tax haven and established shell companies here to evade taxes, according to the documents obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

And the discredited Panamanian firm is not alone. The Maple Leaf is emblazoned on dozens of international corporate registry websites pitching the country as a legitimate option for hiding wealth. Of greatest interest to foreign investors are Canadian limited partnerships (LPs): a corporate structure that has no tax filing requirements. Only the partners behind an LP have to file taxes, and if they're not residents of Canada, no taxes are filed here at all.

"Canada is a horrible tax haven. Everybody is now switched over from using (British Virgin Islands) companies and Cayman companies to Canadian LPs. It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world," said Mark Morris, an independent tax consultant based in Zurich who specializes in international tax agreements.

> **It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world.**
>
> Mark Morris, independent tax consultant

Tax industry insiders call Canada a "white-listed" tax destination — a kind of flag of convenience for foreign-controlled shell companies with no legitimate business operations in the country.

"You've got this entity in Canada; banks or other parties in other countries are going to presume that it's legitimate and OK — pure as the driven snow of the great white north," said Toronto tax lawyer Jonathan Garbutt.

While Canadian companies must pay taxes on their worldwide incomes to the Canada Revenue Agency, Ramses Owens, Mossack Fonseca's managing director in Panama, told colleagues there's an easy way around this.

"I believe the Canada companies … are managed in a way that the administrators simply declare annually NO-ACTIVITY. In other words, they cheat a bit," he wrote in an email in August 2010.

"It is impossible for the Canada revenue governmental system to look into such information for every single company formed in Canada … This is risky, but we will try to provide the service."

Shortly afterward, Mossack Fonseca produced a flyer promoting Canada as a tax haven jurisdiction, offering to register a corporation for $2,000.

Mossack Fonseca did not respond to requests for comment.

"You cannot but help look at the issue of money laundering. Having a degree of anonymity allows individuals to obfuscate," said Peter Dent, a forensic accountant and past chair of Transparency International Canada.

"Rules that allow you to obfuscate the true source of money behind transactions facilitate money laundering on a global scale." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DIGEST DAY 5

**White House spokesman perpetuates false claims**

Promoting yet another lie, Sean Spicer, the chief spokesman for U.S. President Donald Trump said Trump believes millions of illegal immigrants voted illegally in the presidential election.

This did not happen.

There were fewer than a dozen claims of voter fraud across the country. In a December legal filing arguing against a recount in Michigan, Trump's own lawyers wrote, "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud."

Trump, though, is sensitive about the fact that Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton received more votes than him. He wrote on Twitter in November that he "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," and he repeated the nonsensical claim in a private meeting with congressional leaders on Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Abortion ban expanded**

Trump has massively expanded the ban on providing federal money to international family planning groups that perform abortions or provide abortion information to all organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance. Spicer announced Monday that the ban on family planning funding had been reinstituted.

The order directs the secretary of state, in cooperation with the secretary of health and human services, for the first time to extend the requirements in the ban "to global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies." The ban is known as the Mexico City Policy or Global Gag Rule.

International organizations receiving U.S. funds for health programs will be required to certify that it does not provide abortion services, counselling, information or advocate for the liberalization of abortion laws, even with non-U.S. funds. If they don't, their funding will be cut off.

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HOUSING

# Rising prices widen search for homes

High house prices in the Greater Toronto Area are spilling over into nearby markets, especially those within commuting distance, according to the latest report from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

Historically, prospective homebuyers in Ontario who have found themselves priced out of the Toronto area have migrated to Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph to buy single-family homes, according to CMHC.

But the federal housing agency says that most recently people have been moving even further out, especially to the St. Catharines-Niagara region.

As the price of low-rise homes in the Toronto area has soared, house prices in nearby communities like Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph have also been driven up, said Jean-Sebastien Michel, principal of the market analysis centre at CMHC.

According to CMHC, Hamilton — roughly 70 kilometres from Toronto — is the Ontario market that's most sensitive to housing prices within the Greater Toronto Area.

The report estimates that a one-per-cent change in GTA house prices could increase or decrease Hamilton prices by two per cent after three years.

A similar but smaller multiplier effect would be felt in Guelph, Brantford, Kitchener, Barrie, Peterborough and St. Catharines, which is about 112 km from Toronto.

Tim Hudak, CEO of the Ontario Real Estate Association, says the lack of supply is the main factor behind soaring detached home prices in the GTA.

"The best way to ensure young families and first-time buyers have a shot at buying a home is by putting more homes on the market," Hudak said.

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**Science professor Greg Goss in a lab which studies the effects on biotransformation, oxidative stress, and endocrine disruption in rainbow trout, in Edmonton on Wednesday.**

CONTRIBUTED-UNIVERSOTY OF ALBERTA-JOHN ULAN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Fracking harms fish

STUDY

## Researchers say even small quantities dangerous

Research has found that liquids released from fracked oil and gas wells can harm fish even at low concentrations.

"When we put these frack fluids in, the fluids themselves generate chemicals that have detrimental biological effects," said University of Alberta biologist Greg Goss.

It's long been known that chemicals used in fracking - which uses fluids under high pressure to fracture rock formations and release oil and gas — are environmentally toxic. Goss and his colleagues conducted a study intended to consider how toxic they are by using water that flowed from an actual fracked well.

"The real risk comes from the disposal process, where (companies) have to truck it to a new site or pipeline it to a new site," Goss said Tuesday. "If we do have a spill, what are the concerns they have to worry about?"

His paper notes that Alberta has experienced more than 2,500 such spills between 2011 and 2014.

The researchers exposed rainbow trout to "sub-lethal" levels of such fluids. The levels were intended to simulate exposure fish or other organisms would be subject to from a pipeline leak or a spill near a water body.

Even at dilutions as low as 2.5 per cent — 2.5 litres of process water to 100 litres of fresh water — fish showed significant impact on their livers and gills.

Goss calls the effect "oxidative stress." That means chemicals in the water force liver and gill cells to age and die more quickly.

"Oxidative stress is associated with damage to membranes," he said.

Some chemicals in the water, which have been shown to cause hormone disruptions in other studies, were absorbed by the fish.

"There are endocrine-disrupting effects potentially involved in some of the chemicals involved in that," Goss said.

"There's the potential that some of the fluids may be similar in the effects that you would see from municipal waste water, where you might see feminization of animals."

The effects were amplified by the presence of sediment in the water.

Goss said that could mean that organisms on lake bottoms or riverbeds could be more at risk than fish.

Filtering sediments out might be a way for industry to reduce the toxicity of its process water before it gets transported, he suggested.

The study points out that its tests were conducted on water from one specific well operated by Encana.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, January 25, 2017

## JESSICA ALLEN ON THE POWER OF PROTEST

# Public marches have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not the point

Simon asked if I wanted him to join me at the Women's March in Toronto on Saturday. Because it was my first protest, and I wasn't sure why I felt compelled to attend, I told him that I'd like to go it alone. Besides, he could stay home to do the laundry and make dinner.

When the packed streetcar stopped in front of Queen's Park, everyone on board gasped at the sight of thousands gathered on the greens and the sound of their swelling cheers. We broke out into applause before joining them.

I overheard a father delicately explaining to his young daughter what "pussy" meant, a woman telling her group that a friend of hers in Ethiopia had travelled 90 hours to get to the Women's March on Washington, and I saw another proudly take her birth-control pill.

There were protesters carrying a black cardboard coffin with "Patriarchy" painted in white on its side. There were signs that read "I can't believe I still have to protest this sh–t" and semi-absurd ones, like "We Shall Overcomb." There were signs about feminism, racism, inclusivity and pipelines. I also saw a white woman holding an eagle feather, performing a smudging ceremony. For a moment, I understood why so many were dismissing the March as aimless.

But just as the crowd readied itself to move, I remembered something I'd read midweek: "There's been a strong hint of gendered Schadenfreude in the coverage of the march's organizational problems," Jia Tolentino wrote for newyorker.com. "This has obscured the fact that activism is internally contentious by nature. Organization is always tedious, and that's just finE"

But why did I come? The Affordable Health Care Act repeal will greatly affect my U.S. friends and their families. The day after the election was the first time misogynist tweeters took dead aim at me, as though Trump's win was permission to say publicly that people who look like me shouldn't be on television. These things troubled me. As the throng began to inch forward, my throat swelled and my eyes cracked tears. I have two jobs. Both my bosses are women. I have a stay-at-home partner. I have never been sexually assaulted. But my mother cannot say the same thing. I came for her, I told myself.

Afterwards, I floated home, where I found Simon hanging up my bras to dry. He started on dinner while I looked at social media, which was flooded with friends' celebratory images from protests in D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Oaxaca and Florence. Most comments were supportive. Others asked: "How can you protest Trump before he's had a chance to govern? Give the man a chance!"

Answering such a question is a tedious exercise, but still worthwhile: Trump has vowed to appoint Supreme Court Justices that will overturn Roe v. Wade, has bragged about committing sexual assault, and wants to defund Planned Parenthood. If you are tired of hearing this litany of complaint levelled against the commander in chief, imagine how it must feel for women who have to go through the dirty-laundry list — to which we can now add yesterday's reinstatement of the executive order banning foreign aid to NGOs that so much as discuss abortion with patients — every time someone tells us to give him the benefit of the doubt.

And then I saw a tweet from Stephen Taylor, the former national director of the National Citizens Coalition: "Do protestors in Toronto hope that Donald Trump will say 'oh, I guess Toronto is upset. I'll resign tomorrow.' What's the point?"

That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches. What made this one different?

Symbolic acts matter. Take the parade that followed Trump's inauguration. Take birthday parties! We don't need to throw a party to get older, and the parade wasn't necessary to achieve the transition of power. They're both for show. Like public marches, they have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not "the point," notwithstanding the many examples of marches throughout history, like the 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession and the 1963 March on Washington, that did effect tangible change.

You better believe that the same people who insist that the 600-odd demonstrations on Saturday didn't mean anything would be arguing the opposite if millions in the U.S. and hundreds of thousands across other countries hadn't shown up. That would've meant something.

But we did show up. And the world was watching.

# Trump benefitting from waning U.S. influence

Thomas Walkom

Donald Trump can be thin-skinned and obnoxious. He plays fast and loose with the facts. He has adopted much of the worst of the Republican agenda, including opposition to women's reproductive rights.

No wonder so many people — including so many Canadians — detest the new U.S. president.

But he is also oddly realistic. His America First rhetoric may conjure up memories of 1930s isolationism. It may signal a retreat to Fortress America.

But it also reflects what is going on. America no longer dominates the Western world in the way it one did

The signs are everywhere. In the Middle East, it is not the U.S. that is brokering an end to the devastating Syrian civil war. Rather that role has been taken on by Russia, Iran and Turkey.

In the Korean peninsula, it has become clear that any solution to the problem of a nuclear-armed North lies not in Washington but Beijing.

Economic integration? Trump officially killed the Trans Pacific Partnership this week. But he was merely delivering the coup de grace. Opposition to the deal was so strong in the U.S. that even Democratic Party presidential contender Hillary Clinton, a former fan, vowed to kill it.

Meanwhile, China is forging ahead to create its own economic zone. Its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which the U.S. has refused to join, now has 57 members – including Britain, Germany and France. Canada is applying to sign on.

Trump has questioned NATO's relevance, at one point calling it "obsolete." He's also called it "very important to me."

How the president squares these remarks is not entirely clear. But he is not the first to question the need for a military alliance set up to counter a Soviet Union that no longer exists.

Those who see Vladimir Putin's Russia as a modern-day version of the U.S.S.R. argue that NATO remains desperately relevant. But Trump doesn't appear to share those views. Indeed, he appears to think that Russia should be granted the same leeway in its backyard that the U.S., via the Monroe Doctrine, claims for itself in the Americas.

More to the point, he is reluctant to foot so much of the bill for an alliance that may no longer suit U.S. interests.

And that is the key to what may eventually be called the Trump Doctrine: America's position in the world has changed.

The rise and decline of great powers is rarely neat. My guess is that Trump will intervene far more in the world than his critics think.

Still, these days, international leadership is not something the U.S. can so easily afford.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Lin-Manuel Miranda is getting closer to 'EGOT' status, thanks to his Oscar nomination for best original song. The Hamilton creator, who has already won an Emmy, two Grammys and three Tonys, picked up a nod for How Far I'll Go from the animated film Moana.

# Oscars not so white

## After a badly needed push in the right direction, the Academy Awards recognize that there's nothing as diverse as talent

**OSCARS LOWDOWN**

**3**

Viola Davis is now the first African-American actress to score three Academy Award nominations.

**$100M**

None of the best picture nominees has yet grossed more than $100 million in the U.S. The film Arrival comes closest with $95.7 million.

Among the Canadians earning Oscar nods is Theodore Ushev for best animated short, and a number of the Arrival crew including producer Shawn Levy and director Denis Villeneuve.

Viola Davis is up for best supporting actress for her role in Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation, Fences. She was previously nominated for Doubt in 2009 and The Help in 2012. CONTRIBUTED

**Peter Howell**
Torstar News Service

There were few surprises and even fewer snubs among Tuesday's diverse nominees for the 89th Academy Awards, which is exactly as it should have been.

There's not a single undeserved nomination amongst the lot of them, even if academy voters rightly felt pressure to address the dearth of non-white actors in two previous years of nominations.

Sometimes a little push is needed to get people to do the right thing.

As predicted by pundits and earlier wins, Damien Chazelle's Hollywood ode La La Land topped the golden list with 14 nominations, including best picture, director, actor (Ryan Gosling) and actress (Emma Stone), tying Titanic (1997) and All About Eve (1950) for the Oscar noms record.

The singing-and-dancing sensation also breaks the record for most nominated musical, set a half-century ago by Mary Poppins, which had 13 nods.

Tied as the closest challengers to La La Land, with eight nominations apiece including Best Picture and Director, are Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama Moonlight and Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi thriller Arrival.

The other six Best Picture nominees — Manchester by the Sea, Fences, Lion, Hidden Figures, Hacksaw Ridge and Hell or High Water — make for a total of nine, one more than last year and all of them dramas.

Most significant of all is the large amount of diversity in the nominations, even if leader La La Land has a mostly white cast and features Gosling as a defender of jazz, a musical form created by African-Americans and Indigenous North Americans.

Seven of the 20 acting nominees are people of colour, while four of the nine Best Picture contenders — Moonlight, Fences, Lion and Hidden Figures — tell diverse stories with non-white actors in most of the leading roles.

After two years when visible minorities were conspicuously absent from the Oscar leaders board, this is a welcome development, if also a completely expected one.

The nominations seemed to please April Reign, the New York writer and editor who coined the #OscarsSoWhite Twitter hashtag that helped push a foot-dragging academy into making needed changes to promote diversity, including increasing the number of non-white voters.

"Some surprises, some spot-on decisions . . . Things are changing because our voices are strongest together," Reign wrote in a pair of tweets.

It was particularly gratifying to see Oscar nominations for Moonlight's Barry Jenkins, and also Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris in the respective best supporting actor and actress categories, three of the reasons why this wonderfully wise film topped my list of best movies of 2016.

It's also great to see Meryl Streep get her record 20th Oscar nomination for playing a tone-deaf singer in Florence Foster Jenkins.

It's a nomination she likely gained not only for her considerable talent but also in appreciation of her marvellous rip into Donald Trump's xenophobic ways at the Golden Globes earlier this month, who retaliated by childishly calling her "one of the most overrated actresses in Hollywood."

Also nice are the long-overdue best actress nod for Isabelle Huppert (Elle) and best actor nom for Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic), indicating that the academy is willing to recognize overlooked actors of any colour.

What few snubs there were — the acting MIA list include Tom Hanks for Sully, Amy Adams for Arrival, Annette Bening for 20th Century Women — are fewer in number than in previous years and not unexpected in a year so rich with talent.

Oscar can't get everything right. But at least this year, it got the most important thing right, by recognizing that talent doesn't just come in one colour.

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# Salute the kernel and add more pop

RECIPES

## Take movie nights to the next level with stellar snacks

**Ricardo Larrivée**
For Torstar News Service

Fluff up your pillows, slip on your sweats, cue up a favourite flick and take movie night to the next level with these three popcorn recipes. Your kids will never look at the old-school snack the same way again.

Plus, they can easily help make these three fun flavours — all you'll need to do is supervise. We suggest making them all — spicy barbecue, tangy ketchup and caramelized brown sugar — so that everyone can mix and match.

Best of all, if there's any left (unlikely), it'll keep for days in an airtight container so you can do it all over again next weekend.

**If there are any leftovers, these popcorn bowls will keep for days afterward.** RICARDO LARRIVÉE

### Sweet popcorn

Makes four cups.

**Ingredients:**
- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) lightly packed brown sugar

**Directions:**
**1.** With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

**2.** Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

**3.** In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and brown sugar, stirring frequently. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

**4.** Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

**5.** Popcorn will keep for 1 week in an airtight container or sealable bag.

### BBQ popcorn

Makes four cups.

**Ingredients:**
- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) chili powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) garlic salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) cayenne pepper, or to taste

**Directions:**
**1.** With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

**2.** Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

**3.** In a small saucepan, melt butter with chili powder, paprika, garlic salt and cayenne pepper. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

**4.** Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

**5.** Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

### Ketchup popcorn

Makes four cups.

**Ingredients:**
- 8 cups (2 L) plain popcorn
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) salted butter
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) paprika
- 1 tsp (5 mL) onion salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) garlic salt

**Directions:**
**1.** With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

**2.** Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

**3.** In a small saucepan, melt butter with ketchup, salt, paprika, onion salt and garlic salt. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

**4.** Bake for about 10 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking, or until popcorn is dry to the touch.

**5.** Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

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metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news

Two million plug-in vehicles have now been sold globally

# RX 350 shines on the highway

REVIEW

## Quiet, comfy, and it handles great in a snowstorm

Lucas Cooney
AutoGuide.com

I took a 2017 Lexus RX 350 to take me and a cameraman up north for a story for sister site ATV.com.

While a more performance-oriented Lexus might have been a better match for the sporty side-by-side ATV, an unexpected snowstorm during our four-hour drive made me thankful for the burlier 2017 Lexus RX 350.

Like many people, I'm a torn on the outward appearance of the RX. While I do like the general shape and form of the vehicle, it's in need of a nose job. The giant grille up front was the first thing my wife noticed, and it wasn't because she loved it. It certainly stands out, just not in a good way.

The test car was equipped with gorgeous 20-inch allow wheels, which come as part of the F-Sport Series 3 package. The wheels help make the RX a nice looking vehicle, so long as you only see it in profile.

Step inside the RX and there are few complaints with the beautiful interior. Highlights include F-Sport seats wrapped in leather that offer both heating and cooling, a heated and leather-wrapped steering wheel, aluminum sport pedals, and a panoramic glass roof. The optional 15-speaker Mark Levinson audio system is the cherry on top of the sundae.

It's on the highway where this vehicle really shines. Even at highway speeds, the RX offers a luxuriously quiet and comfortable ride as the 295-horsepower V6 smoothly eats up kilometre after kilometre of snowy road.

Due to the storm, the wind was occasionally violent and the RX would sway a little but it never felt out of control.

When the lanes were largely clear of snow, the lane keep assist feature did a remarkably good job of keeping the vehicle between the lines. This feature was far more active during the windy drive up north than in the calmer conditions on the return trip.

The RX was not quite as at home in the city. That uber-comfortable suspension on the highway seems to come at the cost of a slightly sloppy feeling while taking tighter turns on city streets or braking even slightly aggressively.

Because I'm cheap, I spent most of my time driving the RX in Eco mode. That worked just fine on the highway, but in the city, it turned the engine into a dullard with a painfully slow response.

Going against my skinflint instincts, I briefly took advantage of the F Sport Series 3 package's Sport S+ Mode and the personality changed dramatically. An RX will never be truly sporty, but the Sport S+ Mode really livens things up and makes the RX, dare I say it, sort of fun when taking off from a dead stop.

### THE CHECKLIST | 2017 LEXUS RX 350

**THE BASICS**

**Engine:** 3.5L V6
**Power:** 295 hp, 267 lb-ft
Transmission: Eight-speed auto
**Fuel Economy (L/100 km):** 12.2 city, 8.9 hwy
**Price:** Starts at $55,900

**LOVE IT**
- Ultra quiet interior
- Comfortable ride
- Loaded with cool features

**LEAVE IT**
- Fugly nose
- A bit dull (except in Sport S+ Mode)
- Terrible infotainment interface

INNOVATION

## Volvo to share its autonomous car data with other companies

Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

Volvo has been at the forefront of self-driving cars, and the Swedish company isn't being selfish with its expertise.

The automaker has a pilot project for autonomous cars called Drive Me, where a family could lease a self-driving XC90 that records various data about their driving habits and how they interact with the car.

During an interview at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show with Marcus Rothoff, Volvo's Autonomous Driving Program Director, he explained that having data on how humans interact with real self-driving vehicles is vital to the program's success.

He said Volvo plans on sharing that information with other automakers to expedite research in autonomous cars.

"Collaboration is important when it comes to safety," Rothoff said. Volvo has a special place in the automotive safety history books because it shared one of the most important safety innovations in vehicles: the three-point safety belt.

"We welcome the chance to work with other automakers to improve the safety and development of self-driving vehicles."

Rothoff imagines a future where the vehicle-to-cloud infrastructure that is used by Volvo is adopted by other automakers. Volvo hopes to have fully autonomous vehicles by 2021.

The Volvo XC90 that is being leased as part of the Drive Me program will be capable of automatically driving on the highway.

It uses a variety of sensors and a front bumper mounted LIDAR, in addition to a cloud-connected service that will allow the vehicle to send data to other Volvos.

That means that whenever the ABS and stability control is activated, like in slippery driving situations, other Volvos will be warned about the potentially dangerous route. Additionally, as the car drives autonomously on the highway, it will alert the driver of the upcoming off ramp, and the deactivation of the self-driving mode will begin five minutes in advance, issuing plenty of notice for when the driver has to take control.

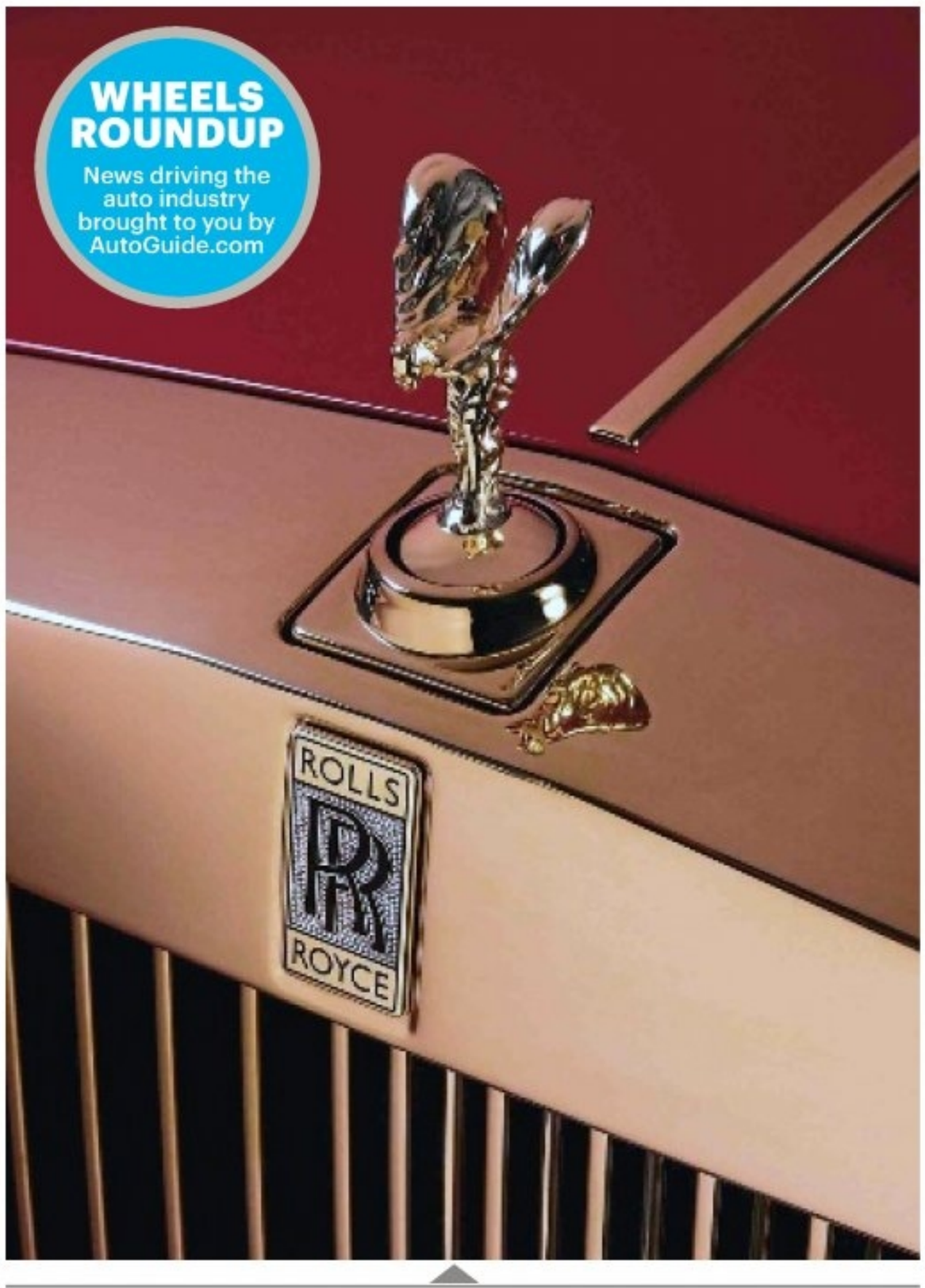
The Swedish automaker is partnered with Uber for a self-driving collaboration, as they provide XC90s to the ride-sharing service. Uber, however, uses its own software and collects its own data.

This isn't the first time automakers are sharing research and data in order to benefit the greater good.

Tesla and Toyota have both opened up their own patents on electric and hybrid cars for other automakers to use.

> **We welcome the chance to work with other automakers to improve the safety and development of self-driving vehicles**
> Marcus Rothoff

# These Phantoms are covered in gold




ROLLS ROYCE

## The most expensive Phantoms ever

The 13 Hotel in Macau will feature a fleet of 30 Rolls-Royce Phantoms, two of which are extra special. Those two vehicles will serve as flagships and have been infused with 24-karat gold on both the exterior and the interior, making them the most expensive Rolls-Royce Phantoms ever built at the time of commissioning. All 30 vehicles were commissioned by Stephen Hung, joint chairman of The 13 Holdings Limited, reflecting his bold vision that can also be seen in the design scheme of the hotel. During the painting of the two special cars, the British automaker installed new and specialist equipment at the Surface Finish Centre at the Rolls-Royce Global Centre of Excellence in Goodwood. This was to ensure no contamination would occur during the painting process. To make them look exquisite, the finish uses 250 per cent more paint than other Phantoms, resulting in 10 layers with one featuring a 40-micron deep layer of gold, combined with glass and aluminum for an alluring shimmer. Not surprisingly, the iconic Spirit of Ecstasy emblem at the front of the vehicle is also 24-karat gold plated, further complementing the gold-colored Pantheon Grille and Rolls-Royce badge. Making it even more excessive are 336 brilliant-cut diamonds that surround the signature RR emblem. JASON SIU/AUOGUIDE.COM

### IN BRIEF

**Control your Genesis from a watch**

A Genesis smartwatch app is now available for the Apple Watch and Android Wear. The new app allows Genesis owners to control their vehicles straight from a smartwatch and is called the Genesis Intelligent Assistant App. Functions on the app include remote start with climate control, remote engine stop, remote door lock/unlock, remote horn and/or lights, car finder, vehicle status and parking meter. Like most smartwatch apps, all the commands can be controlled with your voice. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

MANUFACTURING

## Wagoneer, Wrangler pick-up in the works

Jeep has announced a total $1-billion U.S. investment in plants in Michigan and Ohio, adding 2,000 new American jobs. Jeep is also confirming the addition of new models to its lineup including a Jeep pickup truck, Jeep Wagoneer, and Grand Wagoneer. The Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer models will be produced in Michigan.
JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

PORSCHE

## 911 GTS models get turbo power

Porsche is launching five new 911 GTS models, including rear- and four-wheel drive versions of the Carrera and Carrera Cabriolet, bringing the 911 lineup to a staggering 25 variants. Joining the Carrera GTS models is a new Targa 4 GTS, rounding out a 911 lineup that now includes more than two dozen variations of Porsche's quintessential sports car. DAN ILIKA/AUTOGUIDE.COM

metro SPORTS

"It's been a (lousy) 2017 so far": LeBron James urged his front office to do more after the Cavs fell to 5-6 in 2017 with Monday's loss in New Orleans

# Welshman Robinson hopes his home will bolster Caps

MLS

## Vancouver will go to Europe in prep for last 8 of CONCACAF

Vancouver Whitecaps head coach Carl Robinson is a proud Welshman.

Known to show up at the odd media availability holding a coffee mug emblazoned with his country's flag, Robinson earned 52 caps for Wales during his playing days and revelled in the national team's run to the semi-finals at Euro 2016.

David Ousted and his teammates are looking forward to finally seeing what all the fuss is about. "Apparently it's heaven and it never rains there," the Whitecaps' veteran goalkeeper joked. "It's perfect weather and all that, but we'll see."

Since joining Major League Soccer in 2011, Vancouver has spent a portion of its pre-season schedule in the Arizona desert. But after a sputtering start to 2016 that eventually saw the Whitecaps miss the playoffs, and with a CONCACAF Champions League quarter-final just a month away, the club has set out on an 11-day training stint in Vale of Glamorgan, just outside the Welsh capital of Cardiff.

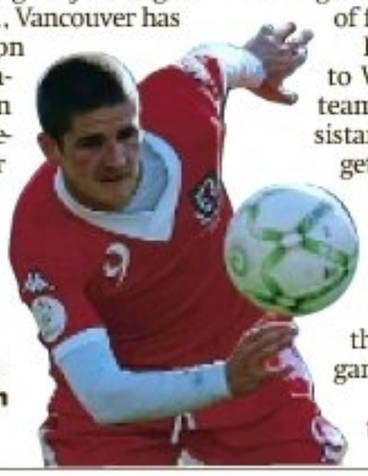
"I'm going to miss the sun and the warmth a little bit," Ousted said this week before the Whitecaps left Vancouver. "But I'm looking forward to a new experience and playing some games that are going to be different. "It's going to challenge us."

During their stint across the Atlantic, the Whitecaps will suit up for friendly matches against Cardiff City and Bristol City of the second-tier English Championship, as well as Oxford United of the third division. All three British clubs are expected to use mix of under-23 players and reserves, with the first game set for Friday against Cardiff.

"It'll be a good change," said Vancouver striker Erik Hurtado. "We'll get a more broad range of football."

Robinson travelled to Wales ahead of his team last week, but assistant Martyn Pert said getting work in against battle tested opponents should serve the Whitecaps well before returning to North America for three more exhibition games.

"The fact that they're in the middle of their season, they're sharper," said Pert, who was a member of the Cardiff City staff before joining the Whitecaps. "The level of play there will be good." Vancouver made a move to sign Peruvian international Yordy Reyna this week, an attacking player who could help an offence that once again struggled to score goals last season, and also tried to shore up a leaky defence by adding right back Sheanon Williams via trade in December.



**Carl Robinson** for the Wales national team GETTY IMAGES

**Carl Robinson** and the Whitecaps will be spending part of training camp for the upcoming season in Wales. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

But the Whitecaps have yet to add the dominant striker fans have longed for since Camilo Sanvezzo left after the 2013. The biggest off-season move thus far is the decision to cut ties with the club's highest-paid player, captain Pedro Morales. Veteran defender Jordan Harvey said he isn't concerned by the lack of movement.

"We have made signings within pre-season in the last few years," he said. "You're going to see this roster unfold, I think, throughout this pre-season."

The goal of the trip to Wales is to bond as a team, get out of a comfort zone and face tough competition in order to hit the ground running ahead of the first leg of the Champions League quarters — Feb. 22 on the road against the New York Red Bulls.

"We start off fast this year," said Ousted. "A really important one for us, both as a team and as a club. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Lucic-Baroni stuns Pliskova to make semis**

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni is back in the semifinals of a Grand Slam after a nearly 18-year wait, beating fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to advance to the last four at the Australian Open.

The 79th-ranked Croatian collapsed to her knees after serving it out and broke into tears in a post-match interview on Rod Laver Arena. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Raptors lose fourth game in row to Spurs, 108-106**

Kyle Lowry scored 30 points, but it wasn't enough to lift the undermanned Toronto Raptors over the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points, while Patty Mills had 18 and the Spurs (36-9) edged Toronto 108-106, to hand the Raptors (28-17) their fourth consecutive loss. The Raptors hadn't lost four straight since March 4-10 of 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Canadiens thrash Flames**

Alexander Radulov scored twice to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 5-1 victory over the Flames on Tuesday night to extend Calgary's losing skid to four games.

Andrew Shaw, Tomas Plekanec and Daniel Carr also scored for Montreal (29-13-7), while Carey Price made 30 saves for the win. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Life getting in way of rugby success

PROS VS. AMATEURS

## Canada coach faces tough choices for February tests

The challenges of coaching Canada's men's rugby team are myriad, on and off the field.

While Tier 1 nations like England have a structure in place that allows them to assemble their top talent for February test matches during the international window, Canadian coach Mark Anscombe is forced to do a delicate dance in choosing his overseas players.

In selecting his squad for the Americas Rugby Championship, the New Zealand native has essentially elected not to summon players from top European leagues to avoid disrupting their club careers.

"We haven't brought them all back. It's a balancing act of making sure we're competitive but looking where players are coming from," said Anscombe.

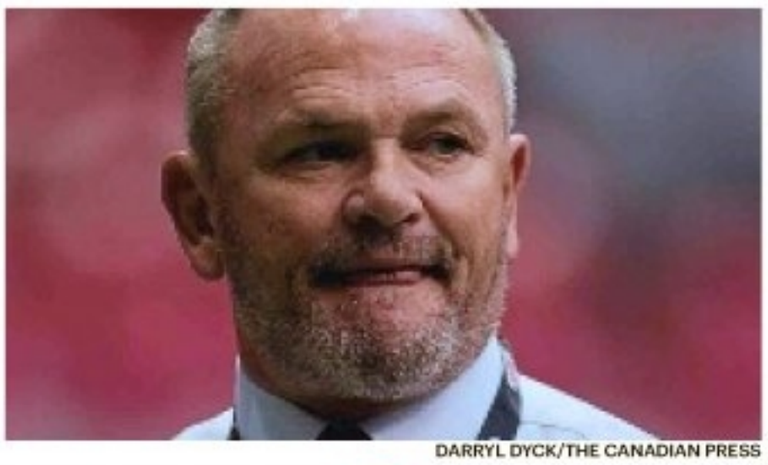
He has been able to bring back prop Djustice Sears-Duru of the Glasgow Warriors, backs Taylor Paris and Conor Trainor from their French second-division clubs and Matt Tierney, Matt Beukeboom and George Barton from their French club academy sides.

Anscombe's 29-man squad for the ARC, which runs Feb. 3 to March 3, contains just six of the starting 15 he had against Samoa in November as well as six of the reserves from that day.

Injuries are another stumbling block. But given much of the Canadian player pool is amateur, so are work and school.

"It's very frustrating," Anscombe said of the selection headaches. "It's the reality of amateur rugby.

"Where I come from (in New Zealand), if you're considering someone for an international, he's a professional rugby player so there's no question he's available and he's going to jump at the opportunity.



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **To take five weeks off to go and do something in a lot of cases is not their No. 1 priority.**
> Mark Anscombe

"But here the guys are amateur. They play club rugby and they go to school and they work."

That is one of the reasons Anscombe has selected an extended 29-man ARC squad, which will be trimmed for the final two road games.

Canada, ranked 18th in the world, opens Feb. 4 against a second-tier Argentina 'A' side at Westhills Stadium in Langford, B.C., a game that does not have test status.

The next four games for the Canadians are all test matches: against No. 29 Chile on Feb. 11 in Langford, the 17th-ranked U.S. on Feb. 18 in Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, B.C., and road matches Feb. 25 against No. 21 Uruguay and March 4 against No. 36 Brazil.

Anscombe's squad includes nine uncapped players: Beukeboom, Barton, Cole Keith, Conor Keys, Rory McDonell, Ollie Nott, Reegan O'Gorman, Carl Pocock and Robbie Povey

The 20 other players, who include veterans Ray Barkwill, Nick Blevins, Phil Mack and Pat Parfrey, have a combined 268 test caps.

Canada is coming off a bumpy November tour that saw a best available roster lose to fourth-ranked Ireland (52-21), No. 16 Romania (21-16) and No. 15 Samoa (25-23).

He pointed to a competitive 60 minutes against Ireland, before the bottom fell out.

"The November window, we had 18 domestic players in our squad. Now 18 domestic players playing international rugby takes its toll," he said. "Each game you're playing, you're playing against a full squad of professional players that train and prepare every day. And that in a nutshell is your big difference.

"We need more of our guys in environments that can challenge them and they can work on it daily because that's what the rest of the world is in the market we're playing.

Until that happens, Anscombe believes both North American teams will be hard-pressed to take the next step against world competition. Canada's top domestic players are centralized in Langford. But the lack of a pro league leaves only amateur competition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INJURY UPDATE

## McIlroy hopes for early-March return

Rory McIlroy is targeting the Mexico Championship in March as his return to tournament action from injury.

McIlroy aggravated a rib stress fracture while finishing runner-up at the SA Open in Gauteng two weekends ago. Those injuries typically take about six weeks to heal, and he believes he'll be ready to play again in the first World Golf Championship of the year, from March 2-5.

"I feel like I can maybe get back before that, but if I were to play (the) Honda (Classic) and then go straight to Mexico, I'd be playing two weeks in a row. I'd like to ease my way back in gently," he said on Tuesday.

**Rory McIlroy**
GETTY IMAGES

McIlroy put the rib injury down to an extra-busy off-season, when he hit a lot of balls to make a swing change and test drivers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

**Argos fire GM Barker**

The Toronto Argonauts fired general manager Jim Barker on Tuesday after the team finished at the bottom of the CFL standings last season.

The Argos were tied with Saskatchewan for last in the league at 5-13.

Barker spent six seasons as GM, winning a Grey Cup in 2012.

The team says Scott Milanovich, who was hired by Barker, will remain as the Argos head coach.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Jays sign Saltalamacchia to minor-league deal: Source**

A person with knowledge of the negotiations says the Toronto Blue Jays have agreed to a minor league contract with free agent catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia.

The agreement is reportedly subject to a physical and Toronto had not made an announcement.

Saltalamacchia would get a $1.25 million, one-year contract if added to the major league roster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

## Ivory Coast's reign ends vs. Morocco

Ivory Coast didn't even make it past the group stage in its defence of the African Cup of Nations as it crashed out without winning a game on Tuesday.

Ivory Coast needed to beat Morocco in the last round of matches in Group C to make the quarter-finals but lost 1-0 to follow Algeria out of the African championship in Gabon — two big teams gone in the space of 24 hours.

TUESDAY In Oyem, Gabon

| IVORY COAST | MOROCCO |
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Instead, Congo topped the group with a colorful 3-1 win over Togo in Port-Gentil, where the Congolese players danced in front of their fans for every one of their goals, and again at fulltime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

# *Elegant* Roasted Cod Provencal

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**
For Metro Canada

This restaurant-worthy dinner may come off all elegant but it couldn't be simpler to make on a weeknight.

**Ready in 40 minutes**
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

**Ingredients**
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 bulb of fennel, trimmed and thinly sliced (retain the fennel fronds for garnish)
- 1 red pepper, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 x 28 oz. can of tomatoes
- 1/3 cup black olived, pitted
- 4 filets of cod

**Directions**

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

**2.** In a large skillet, warm olive oil over medium heat. Toss in garlic, onions and fennel and sauté about five minutes until vegetables begin to soften. Add peppers and herbs and cook another three minutes.

**3.** Add tomatoes and olives. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up tomatoes. Allow to simmer and thicken for about 10 minutes.

**4.** Pour the sauce into a baking dish. Lay the cod over the sauce and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until fish is flaky. Sprinkle finely chopped fennel fronds over top.

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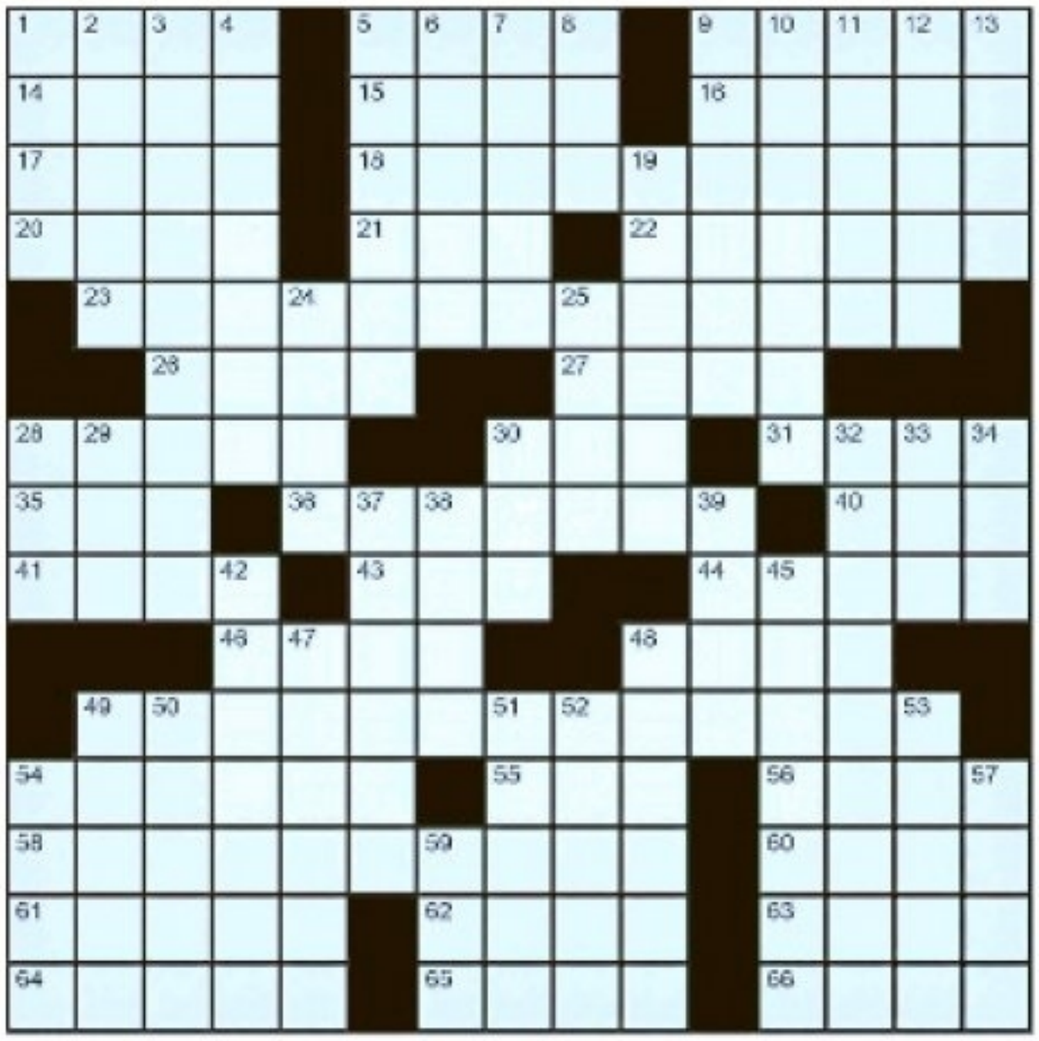
# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. Butterfingers
5. Worker's two-days-from-Wed. holler!
9. Grammy, for one
14. Conspiracy
15. Forearm bone
16. Battle royal
17. Country of West Africa
18. 2017: It's on display more than ever during Canada 150
20. Fair
21. Dutch city
22. Pope's emissary
23. Song on The Tragically Hip's 'Road Apples' album alluding to the legendary afterlife: 2 wds.
26. Early helicopter
27. Not as much
28. _-Barbera (Cartoon-creating team)
30. Rihanna's "_-_-_ (Rescue Me)"
31. Maple trees' drinks
35. Camel hair garment
36. Sorts of seals
40. Gladiator's 3
41. Narrate
43. Jay Z's wife, to pals
44. Job seeker's interviewer
46. Comic Mr. Sandler
48. Brewery kiln
49. The Tragically Hip tune with an office setting video: 4 wds.
54. Fun piece of jewellery
55. "Gee!", to a Scot
56. Ms. Del Rey
58. Not difficult to enter, as a building
60. Winnipeg's Portage and Ottawa's Carling, e.g.
61. Mother-of-pearl
62. Untruther
63. Shipbuilding wood
64. Murders bugs this way
65. Academic terms, for short
66. Antiquities

**DOWN**
1. Goes for
2. Distant in demeanor
3. Warning for mariners: 2 wds.
4. Acted as a replacement for somebody: 2 wds.
5. Mississippi city where Elvis Presley was born
6. Air freshener brand
7. Prefix with 'continental'
8. Way out
9. Secret love affairs
10. Non-dry quality
11. "The Brady Bunch" housekeeper
12. Pine tree stuff
13. Garage band's CD
19. Consume
24. Pull along
25. Plum-like fruit
28. Fedora, for one
29. Bart Simpson's grandfather
30. Hue of blue
32. It sometimes results in jet lag: 2 wds.
33. Apple _
34. Gentleman's title
37. Puts down
38. Quasi
39. Canadian telecommunications firm
42. Miranda of country tunes
45. Sequester
47. Edible seaweeds
48. Nicole Kidman movie, "The _" (2001)
49. Particular parrot
50. Icky-sounding plant
51. Canadian actress Ms. Smulders
52. Happy as _ _ (Glad)
53. Work the dough
54. Ray-_ (Sunglasses)
57. Is inquisitive
59. They, in Tadoussac

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
Your relationships with bosses and authority figures today will be easygoing. They will be willing to listen to you, and you will be willing to listen to them. Of course, this doesn't mean you will agree.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened today, give yourself a chance to enjoy beautiful places and things. Visit art galleries, museums, beautiful buildings and parks.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
If you have to share something with someone today, be careful to protect your own best interests. It's good to be generous — but don't be a doormat.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
Because the Moon today is opposite your sign, you must go more than halfway when dealing with others. This simply requires some tolerance and patience.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Do something today that will help you feel better organized. Set aside 15 minutes, and use this time to tidy up things and get on top of your game.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a creative day for you. If you work in the arts, you will be productive. Trust your imagination and your artistic skills. You also feel sensitive to the needs of children.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day for family discussions because everyone will feel mutually sympathetic. If you cannot help someone, you can at least listen with genuine understanding.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might spend a lot of time daydreaming today. Your imagination also is heightened, which is why flights of fantasy might take up some time.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If shopping today, you might be tempted to spend too much money on something luxurious and extravagant. Think about this carefully. Save your receipts.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel more emotional than usual today. Knowing this, be careful not to overreact if you're unhappy about something. Be cool.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

**Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

**CONCEPTIS SUDOKU** by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

**for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games**

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# How can you help?

Today, Bell will donate 5¢ more
to mental health initiatives for every:

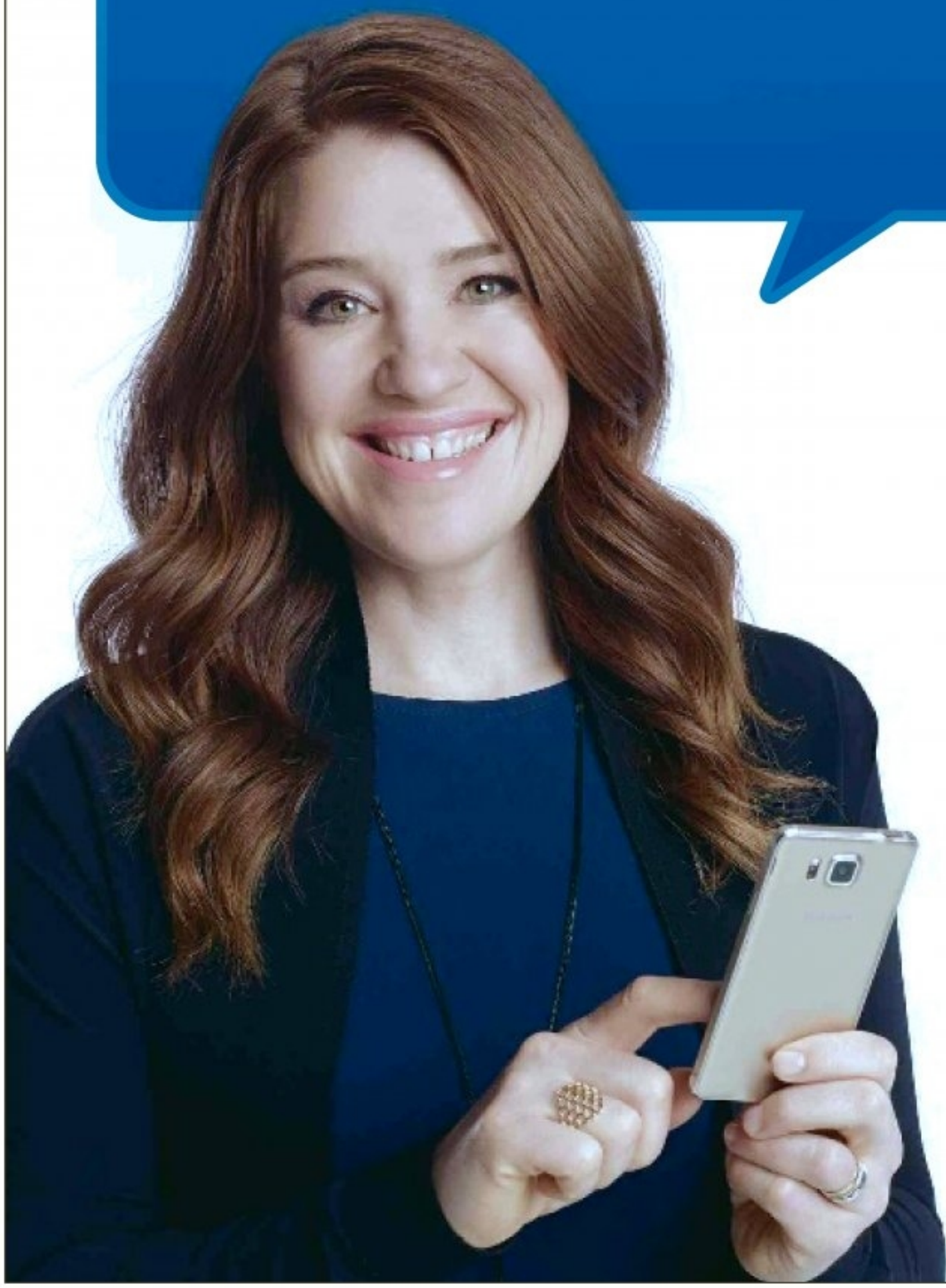
- Text message*
- Mobile and long distance call*
- Tweet using **#BellLetsTalk**
- Instagram post using **#BellLetsTalk**
- Bell Let's Talk Facebook video view
- Snapchat using the Bell Let's Talk geofilter

Bell Let's Talk

bell.ca/letstalk

*Mobile calls, long distance calls and text messages must be made and sent by a subscriber. Regular charges apply.

Today, let's talk!



Clara Hughes